

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the specification will have been amended, a new title will have been submitted, and new claims will have been submitted for entry and consideration by the Examiner. In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections, together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicants wish to thank Examiner MAHONEY for confirming receipt of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and for indicating that copies of the certified copies have been received in the present National Stage Application from the International Bureau. Applicants further thank the Examiner for consideration of the documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because of a number of informalities. By the present response, the “spurious underscore marks” have been deleted. The Examiner further noted a misspelling in the word “dimensional” but indicated that this does not need to be corrected because the meaning of this term is clear. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for his indication regarding the need to correct

this obvious typographic error. Applicants have corrected the title to ensure that it contains no misspelling.

Additionally, Applicants note that at the last line of page 10 (and elsewhere), reference was made to a “flannel lens”. This is also an obvious typographic error and the clearly understood intent of the term is to refer to a “fresnel lens”.

The Examiner further objected to claims 1-15 because of a number of informalities. By the present response, Applicants have canceled all of the claims pending in the present application and have re-submitted a set of claims that is free from all such informalities. In addition, the newly submitted claims are clear, definite, accurate, and properly describe Applicants invention. However, by the present re-submitted claims, Applicants are not narrowing the scope of protection to which they are entitled with respect to the originally submitted claims. Rather, these claims are being submitted to improve clarity and to eliminate minor informalities, such as those noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, no estoppel should attach to the submission of these new claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. By the present response, Applicants have clarified that the invention utilizes a plurality of prism cells.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,208,341). The

Examiner asserted that HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. teach a 3D projection screen comprising a projection screen 36 and a prism panel 38. Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejection and submit that it is inappropriate with respect to the combination of features recited in Applicants claim.

In particular, Applicants note that the present invention provides a three-dimensional imaging screen with a plurality of viewing zones, each of which can accommodate at least one viewer. In particular, the number of viewing zones is recited to correspond to the number of the dispersive surfaces of each prism cell. It is respectfully submitted that at least this feature is not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by HOSTERMAN, JR. et al.

Initially, Applicants note that the present invention provides an imaging screen for three-dimensional images that is viewable by plural viewers. There is no indication whatsoever that the viewer of HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. can be used by plural viewers. It is quite clear from the drawings and disclosure thereof that the viewer is personal in nature and is intended such that each viewer is used by a single observer. Moreover, and making particular reference to the disclosure at Col. 3, lines 4-31, there is no indication of a relationship between the number of viewing zones and the number of dispersive surfaces of the prism cell.

It is quite clear that the number of viewing zones is not at all changed according to disclosure of HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. regardless of the number of dispersive surfaces of the

prism cells. Further, HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. appear to disclose only a single viewing zone, rather than the recited plurality of viewing zones.

Moreover, HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. utilizes cones and cylinders as dispersive surfaces and clearly such surfaces do not provide the features of the present invention regarding the relationship between the number of viewing zones and the number of dispersive surfaces of each prism cell.

Additionally, at col. 3, lines 13-15 and 26-29, the disclosure clearly indicates that a single viewing zone is provided having particularly defined angular dimensions. Moreover, col. 3, lines 29-32 indicate that resolution and contrast are a function of granularity or pattern size. However, this document contains no disclosure indicating any relationship between a number of viewing zones and the number of dispersive surfaces of each prism cell. Thus, the disclosure of HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. is clearly inconsistent with the combination of features recited in Applicants claims.

Accordingly, in view of the above-noted distinctions between the present claims and the disclosure of HOSTERMAN, JR. et al., Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the present application are patentable over HOSTERMAN, JR. et al. and an action to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

Additionally, Applicants submit that the various dependent claims provide yet additional bases for the patentability thereof, in addition to the basis provided by the features

of the independent claims which they inherently include. In this regard, the Examiner has not shown, for example, a prism panel that is spaced from the rear surface of a three-dimensional image projection screen by a predetermined distance as recited in claim 19, nor for example, the various thickness that are configured to not generate interference effects as recited in claims 17, 19 and 21.

Accordingly, for each of these reasons and certainly for all of these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the reference cited by the Examiner and an action to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the specification and provided a new title of the invention. Applicants have further submitted a new set of claims for consideration by the Examiner which define Applicants invention with greater clarity but do not narrow the scope of protection afforded to Applicants for their invention.

Applicants have discussed the disclosure of the reference relied upon and have pointed out the shortcomings thereof with respect to the features of Applicants invention. Applicants have also discussed the explicitly recited features of Applicants invention and have pointed

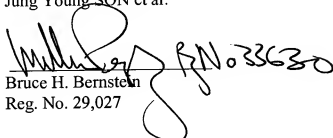
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out the deficiencies of the reference with respect thereto. Thus, Applicants have provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all of the claims in the present application and respectfully request an action to such effect, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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